

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A workflow model comprising:

a workflow, the workflow including actual tasks;

a workflow view representing an abstraction of the workflow, the workflow view including virtual tasks; and

an aggregate workflow compiled from the workflow and the workflow view and operable to support execution of the workflow and the workflow view within a workflow engine.

2. The workflow model of claim 1 wherein the workflow view includes a routing task for interacting with a collaborating workflow view.

3. The workflow model of claim 2 wherein the aggregate workflow includes a plurality of aggregation routing task pairs, each of the aggregation routing task pairs bounding a virtual task and an associated actual task, where the aggregation routing task pairs are in series with one another and with the routing task.

4. The workflow model of claim 2 wherein the aggregate workflow includes a first aggregation routing task and a second aggregation routing task.

5. The workflow model of claim 4 wherein the routing task is connected in series with the first aggregation routing task.

6. The workflow model of claim 4 wherein the first aggregation routing task is linked by an outgoing dependency to a first virtual task and a first actual task that is associated with the first virtual task.

7. The workflow model of claim 4 wherein the second aggregation routing task is linked by an incoming dependency from a first virtual task and a last actual task that is associated with the first virtual task.

8. The workflow model of claim 1 wherein the execution includes concurrent execution of the workflow and the workflow view.

9. The workflow model of claim 1 wherein the aggregate workflow includes state transition dependencies between the actual tasks and the virtual tasks.

10. A method comprising:
compiling a workflow view that includes view tasks and a workflow that includes tasks, each view task corresponding to at least one task, into an aggregate workflow; and
executing the aggregate workflow.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein compiling the workflow view and the workflow comprises inserting a plurality of aggregation routing task pairs into the aggregate workflow, each pair bounding a view task and an associated task.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein inserting the plurality of aggregation routing task pairs comprises arranging the aggregation routing task pairs in series with one another and with a routing task included within the workflow view for the purpose of executing the workflow view in conjunction with a second workflow view, the second workflow view associated with a second workflow.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein compiling the workflow view and the workflow comprises:

linking a first aggregation routing task to an input of a first view task;
linking a second aggregation routing task to an output of the first view task; and
linking a first task between the first aggregation routing task and the second aggregation routing task, for parallel execution with the first view task.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein linking the first task comprises:

linking the first aggregation routing task to an input of the first task; and
linking an output of a second task to the second aggregation routing task.

15. The method of claim 13 further comprising linking the second aggregation routing task to a routing task included within the workflow view, wherein the routing task is in communication with a secondary workflow view associated with a secondary workflow.

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16. A system comprising:
a workflow modeler operable to model a workflow, the workflow including tasks;
a view modeler operable to model a virtual workflow as an abstraction of the
workflow, the virtual workflow including virtual tasks that each correspond to at least one of
the tasks; and
a aggregation engine operable to combine the virtual workflow and the workflow into
an aggregated workflow.

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17. The system of claim 16 further comprising a workflow engine operable to enact the
aggregated workflow.

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18. The system of claim 17 wherein the virtual workflow includes a routing task for
interacting with a collaborating virtual workflow.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the aggregation engine is operable to insert a
plurality of aggregation routing task pairs into the aggregated workflow, each of the
aggregation routing task pairs encompassing a virtual task and an associated actual task,
where the aggregation routing task pairs are in series with one another and with the routing
task.

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20. The system of claim 17 wherein the aggregated workflow supports concurrent
execution of the workflow and the workflow view.